

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): Plastic container with a separately formed handle, which comprises:

a hollow body of plastic material having a lower, supporting base, a sidewall extending upwardly from the base, a shoulder portion extending upwardly from the sidewall, and an upper neck portion with an opening therein extending upwardly from the shoulder portion;

a separately formed, unitary, one-piece handle having a first open position and a second closed position, and having an annular portion engaging said neck portion and supported thereby, and a handle portion extending downwardly from the annular portion; and

wherein said neck portion and annular portion each include at least ~~one~~ two engagement ~~surface~~ surfaces which fit together to form at least ~~one~~ two projections ~~projection~~-seated in at least ~~one~~ two grooves ~~groove~~, said first open position having semi-circular central portions connected by a hinge, with said engagement surfaces provided on the semi-circular portions and configured to engage said engagement surfaces on the neck portion, and wherein said second closed position having said semi-circular portions closed to form said annular portion with the engagement surfaces fitted together, and

wherein said first open position includes two arm portions extending outwardly from the semi-circular portions and said second closed position includes said two arm portions connected together in a locking engagement to form said handle portion.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Plastic container according to Claim 1, wherein the separately formed handle is plastic, and wherein the inside surface of the annular portion of the handle includes ~~at least one~~ a plurality of inwardly extending ~~groove, grooves,~~ and the neck portion includes ~~at least one~~ a plurality of outwardly extending projections seated therein.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Plastic container according to Claim 2, ~~including a plurality of said grooves and projections, with each projection seated in a groove,~~ wherein said grooves and projections are spaced around the circumference of said annular portion and neck portion, respectively.

Claim 4 (original): Plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the neck portion includes a threaded section and an outwardly extending rim below the threaded section, and wherein the annular portion of the separately formed handle engages the neck portion below said rim.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the shoulder portion of said hollow body includes a plurality of spaced apart, downwardly extending, outward ribs.

Claim 7 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the lower portion of said sidewall includes at least one, inwardly extending rib circumscribing the circumference of said hollow body.

Claim 8 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein said sidewall includes an inwardly curved portion, and wherein said handle portion extends adjacent said inwardly curved portion.

Claim 9 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 8, wherein said inwardly curved portion includes at least one downwardly extending outward rib.

Claim 10 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the base of said hollow body includes an inwardly extending portion, a peripheral rim, and a plurality of outward ribs extending between the inwardly extending portion and peripheral rim.

Claim 11 (original): A plastic container according to Claim 8, wherein the lower portion of said inwardly curved portion includes an outwardly extending ridge, and wherein the handle portion includes an end portion which is spaced above said ridge.

Claims 12 – 21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A handle configured to be attached to a separately formed container, which comprises:

a unitary, one-piece handle having a first open position and a second closed position;

said first open position having semi-circular central portions connected by a hinge and including two arm portions extending outwardly from the semi-circular portions, wherein at least ~~one~~ two engagement surfaces ~~is~~ are provided on the semi-circular

portions configured to engage at least ~~one~~ two engagement surfaces on the separately formed container to form at least ~~one~~ two projections seated in at least ~~one~~ two grooves; and

said second closed position having said semi-circular portions closed to form an annular portion configured to engage ~~the~~ a neck portion of the separately formed container with the engagement surfaces fitted together, and having a handle portion extending from said annular portion, with said second closed position including said two arm portions connected together in a locking engagement to form said handle portion.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A handle according to Claim ~~23~~ 22, including at least ~~one~~ a plurality of inwardly extending grooves on the inside surface of the semi-circular portions configured to engage ~~at least one~~ a plurality of projections on the neck portion of the separately formed container.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A handle according to Claim 24, ~~including a~~ wherein said plurality of said grooves on said semi-circular portions are spaced around the circumference thereof ~~configured to engage a plurality of said projections.~~

Claim 26 (currently amended): A handle according to Claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein said arm portions are secured together by at least one pin on one arm engaged with at least one hole on a second arm in a locking engagement.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A handle according to Claim ~~23~~ 24, wherein said handle is plastic.

Claim 28 (new): A handle according to Claim 26, including locking tabs on holes in one arm interlocked with locking tabs on pins on a second arm.

Claim 29 (new): Plastic container according to Claim 1, wherein said arm portions are secured together by at least one pin on one arm engaged with at least one hole on a second arm in a locking engagement.